

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The Department today restated its guidelines relating to travel ban exceptions and added a new category of applicants for travel to restricted areas. (See 3.B below)

The addition results from the continual review given to the subject of travel restrictions.

The guidelines follow:

1. An application of a United States national for validation of his passport to travel to a restricted area will be granted when such action is found to be in the national interest of the United States.

2. An application will be considered to be in the national interest of the United States if:

- A. The applicant is a professional reporter, the purpose of whose trip is to obtain, and make available to the public, information about the restricted area; or
- B. The applicant is a doctor or scientist in the field of medicine or public health, the purpose of whose trip is directly related to his professional responsibilities; or
- C. The applicant is a scholar with a post-graduate degree, or its equivalent, the purpose of whose trip is to obtain, for public dissemination, further information in his field of research; or
- D. The applicant is a representative of the American Red Cross.

3. In addition, to the applications set forth in paragraph two, an application may, in the discretion of the Secretary of State, be considered to be in the national interest of the United States, depending upon the restricted area to be visited, the benefit to the United States of the visit, and the applicant's need to visit the restricted area, if:

- A. The applicant,

- A. The applicant, although not a reporter by profession, establishes that a news organization has indicated an interest in publishing a report of the applicant's trip; or
 - B. The applicant's activities in cultural, athletic, commercial, educational, public affairs, professional, or other fields demonstrate that his visit to the restricted area would be of benefit to the United States; or
 - C. The applicant establishes that his trip is justified by compelling humanitarian considerations.
4. An application for validation of a passport for travel to a restricted area must be accompanied by evidence that the application falls within paragraphs 2 or 3 or would otherwise serve the national interest of the United States.

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